



# Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

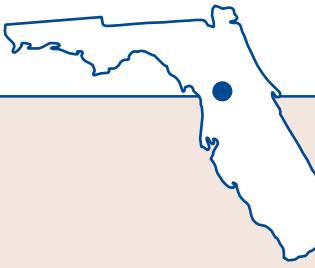
## Ocala, FL

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, the President signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The City of Ocala has been selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Ocala is a city of approximately 46,000 residents in Marion County. The city's economic history includes foundries, lumber mills, fruit and meatpacking facilities, and fertilizer plants. It was also later based on tourism at the Silver Springs attraction six miles east of downtown. Most tourism attractions eventually moved south, leaving behind many vacant and blighted structures and properties. According to 2000 census data, unemployment in Ocala is about 5 percent, with more than 18 percent of the population living in poverty. Brownfields redevelopment is expected to create additional jobs and housing, and increase property values. The city also hopes to



### Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Ocala to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to inventory and characterize potential brownfield sites in the city's Community Redevelopment Area, and to perform Phase I and II assessments at selected sites. Grant funds will also be used to conduct community outreach activities.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team

404-562-8493

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Ocala, FL

352-629-4776

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, the activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

remove contamination threats to the Floridian Aquifer, which is the drinking water source for Ocala and Marion County.